

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A joint for a panel, the joint comprising a first edge $[(1)]$ and a second edge $[(1^1)]$ whereby the first edge $[(1)]$ comprises a groove $[(11)]$ and the second edge $[(1^1)]$ is provided with a tongue $[(21)]$ wherein the second edge $[(1^1)]$ further comprises an upper side groove $[(12)]$, that a joining profile $[(3)]$ is provided with a tongue $[(31)]$ and an intermediate section $[(33)]$, the joining profile $[(3)]$ being so configured so as to allowing it to be located in the upper portion of the joint between two, joined, adjacent panels.

2. (Currently Amended) A joint for a panel according to claim 1, the joint comprising a first edge $[(1)]$ and a second edge $[(1^1)]$ whereby the first edge $[(1)]$ comprises a groove $[(11)]$ and the second edge $[(1^1)]$ is provided with a tongue $[(21)]$ wherein the first edge further comprises an upper side groove $[(12)]$ and the second edge $[(1^1)]$ comprises $[(a)]$ an upper side groove $[(12)]$, that a joining profile $[(3)]$ is provided with a first and second snapping tongue $[(31)]$ and an intermediate section $[(33)]$, the joining profile $[(3)]$ being so configured so as to allowing the first and second snapping tongue $[(31)]$ to be fitted into upper side grooves $[(12)]$ of two, joined, adjacent panels.

3. (Currently Amended) A joint according to claim 2 wherein the joint further comprises mating surfaces ~~(13 and 23 respectively)~~, that the joining profile $[(3)]$ and the upper side grooves

[[12]] are so configured that a play is created in the joint between the mating surfaces (~~13 and 23~~ respectively).

4. (Original) A joint according to claim 3 wherein the play is in the range 0.05 - 1 mm.

5. (Currently Amended) A joint according to claim 1 wherein the tongue [[21]] and the groove [[11]] are configured to limit the movement in a vertical direction between two adjacent panels.

6. (Currently Amended) A joint according to claim 2 wherein the joining profile [[3]] and the upper side grooves [[12]] are configured to limit the movement in horizontal direction between two adjacent panels.

7. (Currently Amended) A joint according to claim 2 wherein a portion [[P]] arranged between the upper side groove [[12]] and its respective distal edge portion [[E]] comprises a recess [[14]].

8. (Currently Amended) A joint according to claim 7 wherein the recess [[14]] further comprises one or more supporting protrusions [[15]], the supporting protrusions [[15]] supporting a lower side of the intermediate section of the joining profile [[3]].

9. (Currently Amended) A joint according to claim 2 wherein the upper side groove $[(12)]$ is provided with a first groove edge surface $[(16)]$ having an angle α of 1 - 50° towards a vertical plane.

10. (Currently Amended) A joint according to claim 2 wherein the first groove edge surface $[(16)]$ will create a pressure on an outer edge $[(36)]$ of the joining profile $[(3)]$ when two adjacent panels are forced together, the pressure causing the intermediate section $[(33)]$ to be urged downwards.

11. (Currently Amended) A joint according to claim 10 wherein a portion $[(P)]$ arranged between the upper side groove $[(12)]$ and its respective distal edge portion $[(E)]$ comprises a recess $[(14)]$, the recess $[(14)]$ being adapted to receive the lower portion of the intermediate section $[(33)]$ when being urged downwards.

12. (Currently Amended) A joint according to claim 2 wherein the upper side groove is provided with a first groove edge surface $[(16)]$ and a second groove edge surface $[(17)]$ between the first and second groove edge surfaces ~~(16 and 17 respectively)~~ a predetermined distance $[(D)]$ is present, the distance $[(D)]$ being so configured that the snapping tongue $[(31)]$ may be pressed in between the first and second groove edge surfaces ~~(16 and 17 respectively)~~.

13. (Currently Amended) A joint according to claim 12 wherein the first and second groove edge surfaces ~~(16 and 17 respectively)~~ are arranged so that an undercut is present, that the snapping tongue ~~[(31)]~~ of the joining profile ~~[(3)]~~ is adapted to the undercut so that a snap action locking effect is achieved.

14. (Currently Amended) A joint according to claim 2 wherein the tongue ~~[(21)]~~ is provided with at least one protrusion ~~[(27)]~~ and that the groove ~~[(11)]~~ is provided with recesses ~~[(18)]~~ arranged to mate with the at least one protrusion ~~[(27)]~~, that the at least one protrusion ~~[(27)]~~ with matching recess ~~[(17)]~~ is configured to allow a predetermined movement in the horizontal plane.

15. (Original) A joint according to claim 14 wherein the predetermined movement is in the range 0.05 mm - 1 mm.

16. (Currently Amended) A joint according to claim 2 wherein the joining profile ~~[(3)]~~ is provided with at least one compression zone ~~[(34)]~~.